Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 079102

R 251245Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7903

INFO USINT ALGIERS

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 0660

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR. SU. SY

SUBJ: LOCAL REACTION SUDANESE/SYRIAN COMMUNIQUE

REF: DAMASCUS 264 (NOTAL)

1. NIMEIR VISIT DAMASCUS NATURALLY RECEIVED WIDE SUDANESE MEDIA COVERAGE DURING PRESIDENT'S ABSENCE FROM KHARTOUM BUT IT HAS EXCITED LITTLE LOCAL COMMENT, PARTICULARLY AS GOS NOW FOCUSSING ON VISIT HERE FIRST SECRETARY EGYPTIAN ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAFEZ GHANEM AND FIRST MEETINGS "JOINT HIGH POLITICAL COMMITTEE". WE INCLINED CONCUR WITH PARA 5 REFTEL THAT NIMEIRI JOURNEY DAMASCUS LARGELY DESIGNED BURNISH HIS IMAGE AS ARAB CONFIDENTIAL

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REGIONAL FIGURE. IN THIS CONNECTION, NIMEIR HIMSELF, IN INTERVIEW

WITH LEBANESE WEEKLY AL-USBU AL-ARABI PUBLISHED BEIRUT MARCH 24, SIMPLY SPOKE GENERALLY OF VISIT AS DESIGNED STRENGTHEN SUDANESE/SYRIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND PERMIT COORDINATION OF VARIOUS UNSPECIFIED ACTIONS IN POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC DOMAINS. WHE QUERIED RE TRIPOLI CHARTER, NIMEIRI REPORTEDLY ANSWERED "IT NO LONGER EXISTS". HE DID SOUND AT LEAST ONE CLEAR PRO-SYRIAN NOTE BY CRITICIZING LACK OF COORDINATION FOLLOWING OCTOBER CEASEFIRE, ADDING THAT DISENGAGEMENT COULD HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY AGREEMENT ON BASIS JOINT COORDINATION.

- 2. TOP LEVEL GOS OFFICIALS REGARD PRESIDENT ASAD AS RELATIVE MODERATE BUT WITH LESS CONTROL OVER VARIOUS BAATH AND OTHER HISTORICALLY FACTIOUS SYRIAN ELEMENTS THAN PRESIDENT SADAT EXERCISES DOMESTICALLY IN EGYPT. ACCORDINGLY, WHILE DIPLOMATIC RUMORS REPORTED PARA 4 REFTEL SEEM GENERALLY WIDE OF MARK, NIMEIRI IN HIS PRIVATE TALKS WITH ASAD MAY WALL HAVE SOUGHT GIVE SOME LOW KEY SUPPORT TO SADAT'S POLICY FAVORING NEGOTIATIONS OVER CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL.
- 3. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT INFO WHICH WE ABLE DEVELOP LOCALLY NIMEIRI VISIT. BREWER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Type: TE

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